

Wood, Wool and Wax

The Denver Waldorf School's Alumni Newsletter

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May 12, 2005

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING FAIR AND ASSEMBLY

May 14, 2005

The assembly begins at 9:00 a.m. with the Fair immediately following.

This year the Spring Fair will focus on Waldorf Education. We will have nametags available for any of you who attend, so you can be easily identified by people who would like to ask questions about Waldorf Education. I would encourage any of you to come, especially those of you with children.

ALUMNI BRUNCH

June 8, 2005

10:00 a.m.

Three years ago The Denver Waldorf School began the tradition of hosting an Alumni Brunch for our graduating 8th and 12th graders. It was our way of reaching out to Denver Waldorf School Graduates, inviting you to share with new graduates your experiences and insights, to find out how you are faring in life and to gather your thoughts and feelings about the education you received and how it has affected your lives. It is an opportunity to share a sense of belonging to the school community and welcome new graduates into the community of Denver Waldorf School Alumni. This year our Alumni Brunch will be offered on June 8th. We would love it if you could come. Call Christa to RSVP at (303) 777-0531 extension 102.

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR ALUMNI TO ATTEND RUDOLF STEINER COLLEGE FOR FOUNDATION YEAR.

Stay tuned for details.

Early Unicycle (1986): Adam Blanning, Josh Carr, and ?? Anybody recognize the other kids?



Autobiography of former Waldorf Student, Nova Nyberg:

I said that I'd write you an autobiography of sorts about my Waldorf experience to perhaps put in your newsletter so here goes. To try and sum up what my Waldorf education has meant to me might well be one of the most difficult things to do. It is me...it's inside of who I am, just as important I dare say as my atoms that hold my physical body together. Waldorf holds my creative and spiritual being together. I have often tried to explain to others why I love Waldorf schools and why it's so important to me to have my son go there (he's only 7 months old now). I start by saying Waldorf is a culture not just a school...it is a way of life, a community in every sense of the word. I enjoyed my upbringing very much and therefore hope my son's experience in the Waldorf school will be similar...just as a former catholic school graduate may send their child there if they liked it. What I remember most about my time at Waldorf is the smell of bread baking, the sound of recorders playing and the genuine kindness the teachers showed me. It was also the slowness and intention that sets Waldorf education apart from public schools (I attended Waldorf through 5th then my parents divorced and I switched to public schools). The watercolors that bled out on the large wet papers and the feel and smell of colorful bees wax as it softens in your hands.

I was at The Denver Waldorf School in the beginning when things were rocky and the school was still forming and the school split into the New School of Denver and then eventually came back to the original school. Yet, with all that upheaval the Waldorf education felt solid and calm enough for the students... I can't imagine how nice it must be now, so established. In a day and age where time whirs by at an astonishing rate the school slowed one down to a kinder pace and encouraged families to do the same. I'm especially glad there was no TV in our home, thanks to Waldorf suggestions. I remember at 12 yrs old I still didn't even know how to turn a TV on!! I've read other folks blurbs about who they are now and some of them truly sound like me. I think the Waldorf school creates hands-on people who aren't afraid to try things, to go out into the big world and eat life whole. I'm 33 and when people ask what I do for a living get flustered because there's too much to say. At the moment I'm a photographer in Boulder (previously did postcards/posters/calendars), life caster, and full time mum. Besides that I'm a landlord and maintenance man....I LOVE power tools. In the past I've done many of my own businesses from art programs for kids to fossil casting for museums. And wedged in between all of that I lived in Indonesia for 2 years where I met my husband (a Muslim, Javanese sailor) on a cargo ship and taught ESL in Java. Sprinkle in living with tribes in Borneo, aimless wandering from Brazil to Brunei, Australia to Singapore and you've got yourself a life that resembles some fiction novel. Here's the funny thing, when I meet other "waldos" (as some have called themselves) they have done just as many wild and crazy things....designing clothes in Bali to farming in Hawaii, to living in an old tofu factory and making art.

What does Waldorf create then??? It creates people who are unafraid, and that my friends is the best quality to have...a boundless self confidence. And let us not forget that it also creates quite a lot of messy, stay up till 3am covered in paint and glue, artists. When people say, oh the biggest expense of raising a child is college I hurumph and say... not so with me. I would rather pay for the elementary education, when things really matter, when our children are developing their very essence and personality. Help them out when they really cannot help themselves and need the safety and love a Waldorf school offers. Let the older child get a job and learn self sufficiency and go to community colleges instead of paying for them to go and thereby stealing their self confidence, their "I did it ON MY OWN". Thank you Denver Waldorf school for helping me become who I am!!! -Nova